DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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West Germans Fight Bonn Treaty

Struggle Against New Wehrmacht

Germans of all shades of opinion are joining together to fight the Bonn Treaty, which perpetuates military occupation, prolongs the partitioning of Germany, and calls for the formation of a new Wehrmacht.

In Hamburg, British Zone, twelve different youth organisations, including church groups, Young Socialists, and the Free German Youth have joined forces to oppose conscription to a new nazi army.

In Solingen, Germany's Sheffield, the Social Democratic and Communist groups in the town council united to pass a resolution rejecting the Bonn Treaty "which is an obvious obstacle to the unification of Germany and a danger to peace." The resolution announced that the workers of Solingen would fight the treaty by all methods at their disposal.

In Ortenburg, American Zone, Social Democrats and Communists held a joint mass meeting to oppose the Bonn Treaty, and preparations for similar meetings are reported from other places.

Helene Wessel, Deputy of the Zentrum Party in the West German parliament, appealed to the women of Schwenningen, American Zone, to oppose the Bonn Treaty and to take steps to bring down the Adenauer government.

News of trade union moves against the Bonn Treaty and the new West German factory law comes from many industrial centres, particularly in the Ruhr. Representatives of 30,000 trade unionists in the Ruhr town of Herne called upon union leaders to take fighting action against the treaty and the new law, instead of "waiting for next year's election" as the union leadership advised.

In Karlsruhe, American Zone, citizens of all parties joined on July 27th to demonstrate against American soldiers, who had been responsible for a series of robberies, beatings and other incidents. The demonstration was so powerful that all cafes and restaurants in Karlsruhe were put off limits for American personnel.

SOVIET MACHINES FOR GERMAN FARMERS

Fifty huge Soviet harvesting combines of the newest model have been delivered to the German Democratic Republic. They were part of a shipment of agricultural machinery which included 300 electrical milking machines, fifty sugar-beet harvesting machines, and nearly 600 other agricultural machines of the newest type.

The machines have been allotted to the tractor stations which do most mechanical work on the fields in nearly all parts of the German Democratic Republic. The new machines will be particularly useful in helping peasant production cooperatives which are being formed.

East German Workers Smash Records

Iron Production Doubled in Year

East German workers and peasants broke all records for industrial and agricultural production in the second quarter of 1952 to fulfil and overfulfil the production plan.

Industrial production in April, May and June was up 13 percent above last year's figures, official statistics showed, and was 45 percent above the 1950 figure.

Most sensational increase came in the iron industry, where the workers have more than doubled production of pig iron in the past year, and in the engineering equipment branch, where 85 percent more was turned out than in the previous year. Production rises of over fifty percent were also achieved in synthetic petrol, electro-steel and potash production.

The quarterly plan report showed that in agriculture too good results had been attained, and a good harvest was forecast. A big part of the credit for this must go to the tractor stations, which have been equipped with a total of over 2700 new tractors in the first six months of this year.

The statistics showed that the number of pigs had risen to 41 percent above the 1951 figure, which was already a record, and this increase was reflected by the fact that meat sales were over one third higher.

Milk production, though still a bottle-neck, was 24 percent up on last years figure, and half as many eggs again were on the market.

The rising standard of living of the whole population was shown by the fact that retail sales of consumer goods rose by 29 percent in the past year, five percent more than was foreseen by the plan.

Biggest capital investments were made during the period in mining and building, in both cases well over double the 1951 figure, and investment increases nearly as big were noted in the transport and chemical industries.

Foreign trade grew by one quarter compared to the equivalent period last year.

Main negative points in the quarterly plan report were that production in the machine tool branch and in vehicle building had not reached the targets. The state trading organisation was criticised for "not always keeping supplies flowing in accordance with the wishes of the population."

AMERICAN SPIES CONFESS

Sentenced For Stealing Secrets

The East German Supreme Court has passed long prison sentences on seven spies working for the "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists," notorious American espionage organisation in West Berlin.

The spies, most of whom had held responsible positions in industry in the German Democratic Republic, all confessed to giving economic and military secrets to the West Berlin group.

Here are details of the men, their crimes, and their sentences:

1. Karl Neugebauer, 50-year-old director of the East Berlin nationally owned Electric Light Bulb Works. Evidence was given that Neugebauer had met Hansen, agent of the "Free Jurists" on a number of occasions by appointment, and had given him information on all aspects of work at the factory which he ran. In particular he disclosed to Hansen details of trade being carried on between East and West Germany in defiance of the American ban.

"I knew that this information would be used to harm the western firms, and also the entire success of our Five Year Plan," he stated. Neugebauer was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

2. Fritz Krefeld, 48-year-old constructional engineer in the nationally-owned engineering factory ABUS, Wildau. Krefeld served with the rank of captain in the nazi Wehrmacht. In his confession Krefeld admitted that he had paid twelve visits to the "free Jurists" since October 1951, and that he had given all possible secret information about his place of work. He also made reports on key personnel and their private lives, reports which the "Free Jurists" used for blackmail attempts in the search for new spies. In addition Krefeld distributed warmongering propaganda leaflets in the factory and his home district. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

3. Gerhard Schneider, 46-year-old constructional engineer employed in the Ministry of Engineering, Berlin. Over a period of many months Schneider supplied Hansen of the "Free Jurists" with secret information on the engineering industry in East Germany. Hansen showed himself particularly interested in details of trade between the two parts of Germany, with the obvious intention of damaging East German industry. Evidence was given that Schneider broke off relations with the "Free Jurists" after reading of the death sentence recently passed on Burianek, a spy and saboteur. He confessed, however, that only his arrest early in July had prevented him from resuming contact with the spy organisation. Schneider was sentenced to 12 years imprisonmment.

4. Fritz Schmelzer, 45-year-old civil engineer, department head in a nationally owned building firm in Stralsund, on the Baltic coast. He was a member of the nazi party from 1933 to 1945, and served in the Wehrmacht with the rank of major. He managed to worm his way into the Socialist Unity Party for careerist reasons in 1950, but was expelled in 1951. Evidence showed that Schmelzer had started spying in May 1952, two months before his arrest. He gave Hansen great quantities of information on building plans on the Baltic coast, and in particularly the building plans of the Sea Police. In addition he gave information on units of the Soviet army. At the time of his arrest he was planning to send blackmailing letters to a specialist he knew whom Hansen wished to recruit for the espionage agency. Schmelzer was sentenced to life imprisonment.

5. Paul Schallon, 49-year-old works director of the Stralsund Cooperative Dairy. A former member of the nazi storm troops and the nazi party. At a series of meetings in West Berlin with agents of the "Free Jurists" Schallon gave details of agricultural plans and developments; handed over names for the "Free Jurist's" black list; and reported on Soviet troops and People's Police. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

6. Rudolf Fiedler, 53-year-old bookkeeper in the German Internal and External Trade Organisation. Originally a student of theology, Fiedler had a business career. He was put into contact with the "Free Jurist's" by a friend of his who had fled to West Berlin. His position as book-keeper made it possible for him to deliver large quantities of secret information to the espionage ring. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

7. Gerhard Pape, 51-year-old electrician from Goerlitz. Supplied the "Free Jurist's" with information on the People's Police, rail traffic, and the movements of Soviets troops. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Damning evidence was given at the trial by two former employees of the "Free Jurists" who had resigned when it became clear to them that the organisation was an American spy ring. Extracts from a sworn statement made by Ruth Schramm, one of these witnesses, are printed on this page.

SECRETARY EXPOSES "FREE JURISTS"

The socalled "Investigating Commitee of Free Jurists" in West Berlin is in fact an American espionage organisation, according to the sworn statement made by a former secretary and published by East Berlin newspapers.

The former secretary, Fraeulein Ruth Schramm, who worked for the "Free Jurists" for three months, said that she had evidence that the organisation had been founded by Americans with the express purpose of damaging the German Democratic Republic.

"For this reason I could no longer work for this organisation of criminals and spies, and decided to sever all contact with them and to enter the ranks of the decent people living in the German Democratic Republic," stated Fraeulein Schramm.

"I was often present at interviews in which section chief Hansen interviewed spies whom he had engaged, and cross-examined them on nationally-owned factories, their production figures, their patents and their exports, as well as about the strength of units of the People's Police, about the railway system and so on.

"He gave his agents detailed instructions on methods of sabotaging production plans, terrorising responsible officials, and spreading unrest."

Dr. Walter Linse, Hansen's chief, was always demanding more results from his agents, Fraeulein Schramm reported. He once told Hansen in her presence: "The more spies we have, the more damage we can do to the industry of the East Zone."

(Dr. Linse was the American agent whose alleged "kidnapping" early in July made headlines in the Anglo-American press.)

"Linse used all methods in order to recruit new agents" the sworn statement continued. "He dispatched threatening letters to specialists in the German Democratic Republic, and bribed persons of weak character so that they fled to West Berlin.

"I know that Linse compiled monthly reports for Friedenau, giving details of the whole espionage work and the reports of agents. Friedenau handed these reports on to the American Mr. Wayne, and received large sums of money from him."

(Other details of the espionage work of the "Free Jurists" are given in Berlin Notebook on page 8.)

From the Ebro to the Elbe

by the Editor

The Thaelmann Battalion of the International Brigades in Spain marched again last week, on the sixteenth anniversary of Franco's rising against the Spanish Republic. Some three hundred veterans — about half the total surviors of the 5000 German anti-fascists who fought in Spain—marched through the streets of Dresden. The thousands of their comrades who had fallen, in Spain, in French detention camps, in Gestapo cellars and on every front in World War Two were present in the memories of those marching.

The rally was no ordinary veterans get-together. It was called as the German Democratic Republic was making preparations to raise armed forces for the protection of its territory against hostile attack, and the International Brigaders were demonstrating that they were as ready to defend democracy and peace today as they were sixteen years ago when they hurried to help the young Spanish Republic.

Heinrich Rau, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, and former commander of the 11th International Brigade in Spain, drew a parallel between the struggle in Spain and the struggle today.

"The leaders of the young Spanish Republic did not form loyal, democratic armed forces in time. They said they had more urgent things to do, and paid little attention to the threat of Fascist attack" he said. "We have learned this lesson. We shall build armed formes — united well-trained armed forces, brought up in the tradition of the International Brigades and ready to resist every aggression."

Watching the column of marching men it was easy to see that the armed forces of the German Democratic Republic would be no Prussian militarist body, but would really hold high the banner of the International Brigades. Many of those who were marching, men with who had fought Hitler from beginning to end with every weapon, would be among the top leaders of the new East German armed forces.

There were men like Heinz Hoffmann, former Political Commissar of the Thaelmann Battalion in Spain, now Inspector General of the People's Police, in charge of education and training; Herbert Gruenstein and Willi Eikemeier, veterans of the International Brigades who now hold the rank of Chief Inspector in the People's Police, and many other police officers.

There were men now holding leading ranks in every branch of industry — Max Friedmann, Hero of Labour and director of one of the great nationally owned steel works of the Republic; Erwin Kramer, Director General of the East German railways, and dozens of men from the factories and farms wearing the proud medals of Activists.

I was proud to be able to march alongside men like these, as an unofficial representative of the many thousands of Britons, Americans, Canadians and Australians who fought beside them in the 15th International Brigade in Spain. With such men holding key positions in the state, in industry, and in the armed forces there can be no danger of a revival of nazism, of a return to militarism, in the German Democratic Republic.

West German Minister Seeks Asylum

A leading West German peace advocate and former provincial minister has sought asylum in the German Democratic Republic.

He is Dr. Guenther Gereke, former leading member of the West German Christian Democratic Union and provincial minister of Agriculture in Lower Saxony, British Zone.

Dr. Gereke was removed from his post and expelled from his party in 1950 because he had attempted to reach an East-West trade agreement without the permission of the American occupation authorities.

Since that date he has played a prominent part in the struggle for German unity and peace, and has been under constant attack by Adenauer's party and various official and semi-official bodies.

He sought asylum after a chain of incidents had convinced him that attempts were being made to "put him out of the way."

Dr. Gereke made this announcement at a press conference in East Berlin, called after West Berlin newspapers had published sensational stories that the former minister had been "arrested by the secret police."

At his press conference Dr. Gereke told journalists:

"In order to publish my democratic views openly, I find myself forced to move to a part of Germany where one is not persecuted for such acts.

"I shall continue my struggle to achieve unity, peace and all-German elections.

"Although those who signed the Bonn Treaty have succeeded in driving me from the West German field of struggle by means of hate propaganda and threats we shall reach our aim of rejecting the Bonn Treatry and all forms of armament under foreign command."

Dr. Gereke gave details to the press conference of efforts which had been made to bribe him to stop the struggle. "Mr. Biel, the U. S. Observer in Lower Saxony, in a number of conversations, pointed out that plenty of money was available for certain purposes. He suggested that if I abandoned the fight there would be all sorts of official, semi-official and industrial posts open to me."

ARP in West Germany

The West German Ministry of Building has instructed builders to include air-raid shelters in all their future buildings.

West German Clergy in Peace Call

Ten Protestant clergymen in Duisburg, British Zone, have issued an appeal to all young West Germans aged between 17 and 37 to refuse military service in the mercenary army being raised by the West German government. They have asked clergy of other denominations to join in the appeal. Despite pressure brought upon them by the Adenauer government, they have all refused to retract their signatures.

The clergy who signed the appeal were:

Pastor Spiecker, Duisburger Straße 172, Hamborn.
Pastor Reberg, Kiebitzmühlenstraße 9, Marxloh.
Pastor Bever, Langen Kamp 2, Beeck.
Pastor Rothe, Bahnhofstraße 149, Meiderich.
Pastor von Exnern, Alte Schanze 71, Neudorf.
Pastor Essen, Essenberger Straße 225, Neuenkamp.
Pastor Immer, Richard-Wagner-Straße 225, Neudorf.
Pastor Buckert, Johanniterstraße 42, Hochfeld.
Pastor Blanke, Fasanenstraße 49, Wanheimerort.
Pastor Pickert, Nürnberger Straße 35, Wanheim.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE REFUGEES?

By Our West German Correspondent

Throughout June and July the millionaire press has been printing heart-rending stories of refugees flooding across the demarcation line from East to West Germany, of People's Police raiding West Germany, and so on. GERMAN REPORT West German Correspondent has just completed a 200 mile tour of the frontier line, reporting what is actually to be seen, on the western side, of the measures which the government of the German Democratic Republic has been forced to take to protect its territory from spies and saboteurs.

The officer in charge of the West German customs post at Witzenhausen, northernmost point of contact between the American zone and the German Democratic Republic, was sweating in his office, dressed only in leather shorts, when I called on him. He appeared to have no good opinion of journalists. "A lot of nonsense the papers have been writing. I won't tell you anything, you journalists just twist all my words. Go down to the frontier and see for yourself."

FARM GRAB?

I started my journey down the valley of the shallow Werra river, which forms the frontier for a distance of four miles. On both sides of the river the same black and white cows are grazing, and peasants are working in the fields. On the East German side a lad watching a herd of geese dangles his heels in the water.

In the little village of Bad Soden the headlines of the newspapers on the stalls scream "New Frontier Incidents" and "Soviets Grab Two West German Farms," but everything is quiet, although the frontier is only a few hundred yards away. All the people of Bad Soden curse the press too, because the village is generally full of holidaymakers at this time of year, but the newspaper campaign has scared them off.

Leaving Bad Soden I travel over a rutted field track towards Asbach, a mile away in East Germany, hoping to get some on-the-spot information about the alleged grabbing of the two West German farms which lie near.

500 yards before I come to frontier itself the owner of the Hainsmuehle, an old mill, gives me the information I want. "First of all they weren't farms" he said. "They were two abandoned watermills. And secondly they belonged to the East German side ever since 1945. Only in May this year, when they started tightening up on the frontier, there was a bit of confusion, and the East German police decided the mills belonged to the West. Then two weeks later after they had consulted all the maps, they found that they really lay on the eastern side. That is what all the talk about 'grab' started with."

TWO "REFUGEES"

I asked the miller about the "flood of refugees" which was supposed to be pouring into West Germany.

"In the past month there have been just two people from the other side who have stopped past here," said the miller. "One was a lad who has been in the smuggling game for years, and the other was a woman whose husband lives at Stuttgart, in the American Zone, and he had stopped sending her maintenance money."

Leaving the mill, I drove right up to the frontier crossing itself, just short of the village of Asbach. Behind the barrier, erected on the track through the ripening corn-fields, two young People's Policemen in their shirt-sleeves were on guard. When I was some fifty yards away they called on me to halt, but when I said I wanted to talk to them they had no objection to my coming closer.

There, right on the partition line which runs through Germany today, we stood and discussed what had been going on in the weeks past. Had there been any changes in the village? Yes, said the young policemen, two families of notorious smugglers had been given notice to leave the frontier region and had been moved to other districts where smuggling was not so easy. A few peasants, probably victims of the horror stories broadcast by American financed radio stations had run away, some to relations on the West side, some to friends in other villages not so near the dividing line. Most of them were creeping back to their farms shame-facedly now.

NORMAL LIFE

Rumours that Asbach and other frontier villages were abandoned were absolute nonsense, said the People's Policemen. I could see that they were telling the truth, for the usual life of a little village, with hay-wains, cows and chicken was going on absolutely as usual, just on the other side of the barrier.

I found a similar picture at many other places in my tour of the frontier region. In Bad Hersfeld, headquarters of the American Zone customs service, an official told me that during June a total of 715 people claiming to be refugees had been registered in his area. "Lots of them go back anyway when they find out how bad things are here,", he said, "and we have plenty of trouble with many of the others, because girls who want to run away from home and many men who can't stand their wives any longer find it convenient to become 'political refugees.' That is quite apart from the real criminals and the suspicious characters of one sort and another."

From the same official I got a clear picture of the exact extent of the "closing" of the frontier as a result of the new security measures imposed by the German Democratic Republic. Semi-official visiting across the frontier in both directions had come to a full stop, he said, but the normal interzonal travel with the interzonal passes which have been necessary for the past seven years was going on as usual. Two interzonal trains daily, each with some 500 persons on board, passed the demarcation line without trouble, postal services were normal across the line and the interzonal bus services on the Frankfurt—Erfurt motor highway proceeded without interruption.

MILITARY CARS

Last stage of my journey was to the government refugee camp at Giessen. Four big American cars, with military number plates, were parked in front of the camp.

According to the figures I was given there a total of 5000 "refugees" had registered there in June. No less than forty percent were rejected immediately as having no valid grounds to claim that they were political refugees.

Even so, the figure for the month was considerably higher than the March figure of about 3000. To find the reason took some close questioning to discover, but was logical enough. In the whole frontier area, on this artificial line drawn through the heart of Germany, families are inextricably mixed on both sides of the border. As long as the demarcation line was just a nuisance and not a definite barrier, husbands had often for convenience sake tilled the fields and registered residence on one side of the frontier, while their

wives had resided and worked on the other side.

Now that the government of the East German Republic had been forced to close the frontier because of the military threats from West Germany, these families wanted to move together again. The only way for the eastern half of the family to get permission to reside legally in West Germany was for them to appear at the camp and register as "political refugees." So there you had the explanation. The movement had not all been one way by any means; plenty of families had re-united by moving permanently to the east, I was told.

An interesting point about the government refugee camp was that the director and all the leading officials were themselves fugitives from the east and could be described as "professional refugees." As long as misled people could be induced to flee to the west they were assured of a job, and this was reflected in the horror stories which they retail to any newspaperman who wants to question them.

Interesting too was the fact that the files on the shelves of the directors office included volumes marked "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" and "Federation of German Youth", two American financed organisations which specialise in sabotage and espionage work directed against East Germany.

I asked the director about the big American cars parked outside the camp. "The Americans always come here and interview the refugees," the director told me. "They have special questions. They want specialised information. About factories and troops and things like that."

Ten Thousand Dollars "Back Pay" for War Criminal

The West German authorities have granted "back pay" of 44,000 marks (more than 10,000 dollars) to a leading nazi war criminal recently released from a Belgian jail.

The criminal, Eggert Reeder, formerly nazi mayor of Aachen, was sentenced after the war to 12 years imprisonment for the war crimes which he had committed in Belgium. Early this year he was pardoned by the Belgian authorities and returned to West Germany.

His first act was to start court proceedings to obtain the pension due to him for his "services" to the nazi state, and the pension was actually granted. He received 44,000 marks as a lump sum, and a steady pension of 1100 marks (over 250 dollars) monthly.

East German Youth Volunteer to build Socialism

All East German youngsters will be given a chance to volunteer for six months work on key points of Socialist Construction, under the terms of a plan announced by the East German government on July 24th.

Within a few hours of the announcement of the plan thousands of young men and women had volunteered to join the volunteer organisation, entitled "Service for Germany."

The "Service for Germany" will have the task of actively assisting in Socialist construction in the German Democratic Republic, of helping to train young people of both sexes as good citizens, and encouraging physical training and sport so that youth are ready both for work and to defend peace.

Young volunteers, aged 17 or over, who have successfully finished their apprenticeship or passed their high-school or university examinations, may join the "Service for Germany" for a six-month period. During this time they will live in camps and receive pocket money of one mark daily.

All those taking part in the service will have a chance to continue their education and to develop their talents.

The government of the German Democratic Republic will institute a special medal for outstanding achievements in the "Service for Germany."

NAZIS STILL PACK FOREIGN MINISTRY

The vast majority of West German diplomats are still former nazis, even after a small-scale "purge" carried out by a parliamentary commission, reports from Bonn show.

Following the revelation that over 85 percent of leading Foreign Ministry officials were former members of the nazi party, the commission examined the records of exactly 21 of the 542 persons described as leading officials. Two of the most obviously bloodstained were sacked, and two others were encouraged to retire on full pension.

The remaining 500 odd employees who were members of the nazi party, and/or employees of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry, are still at work both in Bonn and in West German diplomatic posts all over the world. Here are the records of a few of them:

Embassy Counsellor Dr Hans Schwarzmann. Member of the nazi party from May 1933. Liaison officer during the war between German Ambassador Abetz in Paris and Foreign Minister Ribbentrop.

Embassy Counsellor Heinz Truetzschler von Falkenstein. Member of the nazi party from October 1940. Author of the White Books issued by Hitler on the alleged origins of the war. Employed throughout the war in the propaganda department of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Peter Pfeiffer. Member of the nazi party since 1941. When the western allies landed in North Africa at the end of 1942 he was German Consul in Algiers. His last telegram to Berlin was signed "Sieg Heil Fuehrer und Deutschland. Pfeiffer."

Embassy Counsellor Rupprecht von Keller. From 1933 officer in the marine branch of Hitler's Storm Troops, right hand man of nazi Secretary of State Woermann, sentenced in the Nuremberg trials.

(Details of the past records of many other nazi criminals still employed by the West German Foreign Ministry were given in GERMAN REPORT No. 6 dated March 28th 1952.)

Gestapo Agent = American Spy

An American spy caught on the East German border has been sentenced to death after investigations showed that he had been guilty of crimes against humanity as a Gestapo agent during the war.

The spy, Siegfried Erbe, confessed to the court in Halle, East Germany, before which he was tried, that he had begun his career of crime as a member of the Hitler youth, when he started to act as a Gestapo agent. In order to be accepted into the Gestapo he had shot a Soviet boy, a forced labourer in Germany, for stealing a melon, and later had killed "about 100" persons at a forced labour camp.

After the war he had gone to work for the American secret service, he confessed. He had acted as an agent in refugee camps in West Germany, and as a labour spy in the "Ruhrstahl" Steel Works before being sent to East Germany to carry out an espionage mission there.

American Mother in Berlin (II)

By Ruth Post

(In the first part of this article, published in the last number of GERMAN REPORT, Ruth Post, American wife of a German antifascist fighter, described how she came to East Germany in 1948, and the change which she has seen in conditions since then.)

Shopping for my family almost every day, buying the groceries, the meat, the clothes and the shoes, I have been able to watch life in East Germany change from the drab hunger-level of 1948 to the prosperous life of today. It has been impossible for me not to be impressed by the sure and steady rise in the living standard, our own as well as that of those around us.

And since I always watch and listen to people as I buy, I have been even more impressed by some obvious changes of attitude. Less than three years ago, when standing in line was still an accepted "normal" part of shopping, I remember listening to the grumbles and the complaints of the other people in line.

Well Dressed

As things got better, as more goods came in, as prices fell time and time again, the attitude changed. One no longer needs to stand in line, people are far better dressed — not so smartly as well-to-do Americans but anywhere from adequately to well-dressed - their — faces are relaxed, and they are more apt to gossip than to complain.

Most impressive of all is the new note of pride which you can hear even in casual conversations: pride in where they are, what they have produced, and the way the German Democratic Republic has pulled itself up by its bootstraps. They have begun to realise that it is not a vague group of "thems" who are responsible, but they themselves.

Today, listening to any casual talk in the shops, on buses or street-cars, or in restaurants, you hear people talking about "our stores," "our theatre," "our factory" and "our youth festival."

But to come down to a personal problem: what about my children? Am I glad or sorry that they are being brought up in East Germany? This question is quite complicated for me, because I am, after all, an American, and I love my country, meaning its people and the best of the American traditions.

What my children would be like if they had lived the past four years in the United States I find it hard to imagine. I only know they would be different. Certainly there have been some advantages which they have missed by being here. Schools for instance lacked, until recently, adequate supplies, equipment for movies and so on. In addition, since nazi-trained teachers were forbidden to teach, there was a critical lack of teachers until new ones could be trained.

"New Principles"

At first I must admit I was a little wary of the "new principles" taught children here. But I am now fully convinced that these principles are just what all decent democratic educators all over the world are striving for, and I believe that they are what every parent wants, or should want, for their children.

My children learn in school that all peoples, of whatever race or colour, are equal. I know that in every school in the United States the children learn those words from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal" — but it generally remains something to be learned by rote, without thought, or meaning, or practice. Here it is an actively taught principle which the children are not allowed to forget. No children among the new generation now growing up in East Germany would think of himself for a minute as either superior or inferior to any other race or country, and he would never dream of making an anti-semitic or anti-Negro remark.

Fine Toys

Another thing is that my children, and other children whom I know, never say, even as a joke, "What's in it for me?" or "What do I get out of it?" They learn to look up to and respect not money, or those things which come from money, but cultural and productive achievements.

Children's toys are available in profusion — not perhaps so elegant and streamlined as in the States, but with a compensating advantage: there are no toy guns, no tanks, no atomic bombs.

The book shops too are packed with new editions, including the best of the world classics, and books by contemporary writers of all nationalities on every known theme and subject. But in all the books and magazines which roll from the presses there is not the slightest attempt to incite race hatred; there are no cheap sex or gangster stories, nor any novels which glorify aggressive war and the lives of fascist generals.

In all these things I can see nothing but good, not only for my children and for the millions of German children growing up around us, but for humanity in general.

My children are growing up in an atmosphere of equality and freedom which demands responsibility towards all people. It is strange for me to realise sometimes that they are being brought up in Germany at all.

Even stranger is it to realise that here, some three thousand miles away from where they were born, my children are being brought up in just those traditions of freedom and equality upon which the United States of America was founded.

East Germany Reorganises Local Government

Local administration in East Germany will be completely reorganised in the next few months, in accordance with new legislation passed by the People's Chamber on July 23rd.

The five existing provincial parliaments will be abolished, and will be replaced by 14 county councils, which will be more closely in touch with the needs of the population.

The reorganisation of the administration would play an important role in the construction of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told the People's Chamber.

"The administrative system which we have inherited from the times of the Kaisers is no longer capable of dealing with the new problems which have arisen," he stated.

"In the old Germany the government had nothing to do with the organisation of the economy, since the factories and mines belonged to exploiting capitalists. The new, really democratic form of state which we have established in the German Democratic Republic directs the economy in the interests of the people."

The reform will mean that the new towns and industrial centres which are springing up under the Five Year Plan will be better catered for, and the abolition of the provincial administrations will mean that several thousand office workers will be freed for more urgent tasks on the production line.

"House Full" signs on Baltic Coast

Seaside resorts on the Baltic coast of East Germany are doing the biggest business on record this summer, and at the end of July there was not a room to be had from one end of the 200 miles of coastline to the other.

The overwhelming majority of the holiday-makers baking themselves on the sands were workers from the nationally owned factories and mines, who were living in the best hotels, now taken over and run by the holiday service of the Free German Trade Union Federation. A total of over 500,000 trips to the sea coast and to the mountains of Thuringia have been arranged by the trade unions this summer, and next year the number will be even greater.

Priority in allotting holiday accomodation is given to miners and to workers in key branches of industry. Priorities are necessary, since good pay and guaranteed holidays for all workers mean that more people than ever before are competing for holiday accomodation. Hotel and boarding house construction has not yet caught up with the flood of holiday makers.

The trade union holiday homes provide workers with first class holidays at very cheap rates, and the railways give a 33 percent reduction in fares.

BOOK NOTES

Ausländische Beteiligung an westdeutschen Unternehmungen

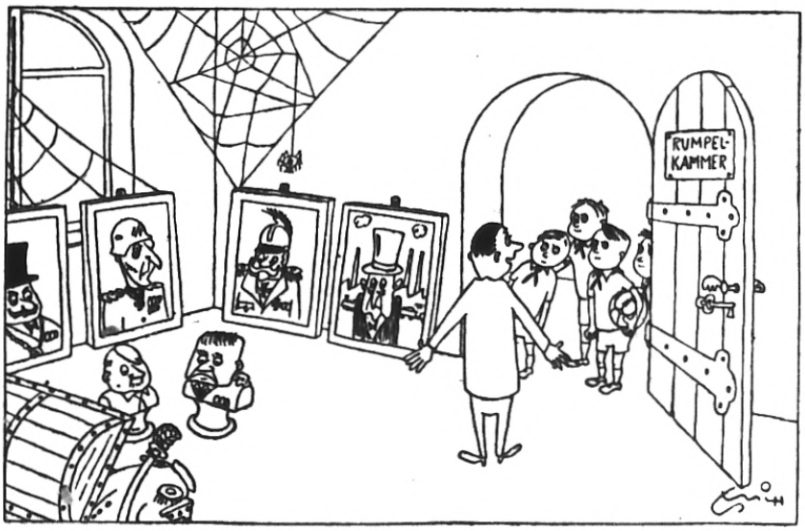
"Foreign Investment in West German Industry", published by Deutsches Wirtschaftsinstitut, Berlin. Price 10 Marks. (In German)

Atlantikpakt der Konzerne

"The Atlantic Pact of the Trusts", by G. Baumann, published by Die Wirtschaft, Berlin. Price 6.80 Marks. (In German)

These two books together are a gold-mine of facts and figures on the great industrial concerns of West Germany, and the way in which they are linked up with the huge monopolies in other parts of the world.

The first book gives, in 450 pages of charts and tables, details of foreign capital invested in West Germany. The second book concentrates more on the men behind the statistics, and gives fascinating biographies of scores of American, British, Dutch and German bankers and industrialists, and shows the part they have played in preparing past wars, and the war they hope to start in the future.



"Here you see the men who used to run this castle and the whole of Germany, children. Now we have swept them away for ever."

CHILDREN GET BEST-EVER HOLIDAYS

Children in East Germany are this year getting the finest holidays they have ever known. Holiday plans for children mean that almost every child between the ages of six and fourteen will get a holiday in July or August, irrespective of whether their parents go on holidays in those months or not.

A total of almost half a million children will travel to the country or the seaside for two weeks or more in one of the hundreds of holiday camps run by the Young Pioneer organisation and by the larger factories.

Another half million will travel every day from their homes to day camps, run by their schools, near the places where they live. 700,000 more will go on school excursions, and a further one million will have special outings, theatre visits and so on.

The government of the German Democratic Republic has allotted a total sum of 40 million marks for this year's holidays, and very large sums have been given by the Free German Trade Unions and individual nationally-owned factories.

Many of the Pioneer camps are situated in the old castles and baronial mansions which dot East Germany, and which have finally been taken over for the use of the working people. Others have been specially constructed to serve as holiday camps.

Finest of these is the Central Pioneer Camp on the Werbellin Lake in Brandenburg, which is still in course of construction. 500 Young Pioneers, who have done particularly well in their school work or in sport have moved into that part of the camp which is already completed, and they will spend the summer here with Young Pioneers from Bulgaria, Poland and Greece.

When the Central Pioneer Camp is finally completed in 1955 it will accomodate 2500 children. The camp will be open the year round, and will have a stadium, indoor and outdoor swimming baths, a zoo, a toboggan slide and observatory.

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The London review "New Statesman and Nation" sometimes prints informative and valuable articles about the danger of a nazi revival and militarism in West Germany. As soon as the paper starts to speak of East German affairs, however, it completely loses its sense of proportion.

On July 19th Editor Kingsley Martin commented on the alleged "kidnapping" of Dr. Linse, an American spy who headed the economic section of the "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists" in West Berlin. Here is his revealing description of the work of this organisation:

"A friend of mine, who recently spent a couple of days studying its work, tells me that when you visit the headquarters at Dahlem, you imagine you are entering a comfortable suburban villa. Once inside you find yourself in a hive of Teutonic administrative efficiency. Every bedroom, bathroom and attic has been turned into cubicles where up to eighteen investigators are interrogating the hundreds of Germans who visit the house each day from all over the Eastern Zone.

Massive Card Index

"From these thousands of interviews the Free Jurists have amassed an unrivalled knowledge of conditions in the Eastern Zone, including, as my friend saw for himself, a massive card index giving details of the private and public lives of all the German Communist officials, and the civil servants and businessmen who are collaborating with the Russians."

There are several interesting points about this description. Firstly Mr. Kingsley Martin has often objected to the undercover probes and the blackmailing aspects of the F. B. I. in the United States, but finds a "massive card index" on the private and public lives of East Germans something absolutely normal and commendable.

Secondly, Mr Kingsley Martin is obviously so confused about conditions in East Germany that he uses the ugly word "collaboration" to describe the work of the decent honest antifascists in East Germany who have worked together with the Soviet occupation authorities to rid this part of Germany of the nazi pest, and to build a Socialist economy.

Thirdly, it would be interesting to know who Mr. Kingsley Martin's "friend" is. After all, neither ordinary tourists nor journalists are shown the secret files of an espionage organisation.

Frankly Mr. Martin, if the work done by the so-called "Free Jurists" is not espionage, against which any state would take steps to protect itself, then what is it?

Boating in Berlin

In the past few days, I have been getting an insight into the way the Berliners spend the hot weather. A friend of mine has lent me his little house, right on one of the lakes which dot the outskirts of Berlin, and while I type these lines I can look out and see literally hundreds of sailing boats, canoes and small motor boats. If I troubled to count I could probably see thousands of swimmers.

Many of the boats are being rowed, paddled and sailed by people who never had the time or money to do it before. Many of the large mansions on this and other lakes in East Berlin have been taken over by factories and various organisations as rest and holiday homes, and the boat-houses which used to belong to expensive and exclusive clubs are now, in many cases, the property of the Free German Youth and the democratic sport organisation.

Fine new clinker-built canoes as well as collapsible canoes are on free sale in the state stores at pre-war prices, and the boat-hirers are doing a roaring business too.

Beer and Beethoven

The bricklayers and carpenters working on the great new blocks of workers' apartments in the Stalin Allee in East Berlin have smashed all records again, completing the first three blocks 45 days ahead of schedule.

In the past it has been traditional for German bricklayers to celebrate the completion of a big building of this sort with a party at which most of the men got comfortably drunk.

Since they had finished their building more quickly, more cheaply, and with the use of far fewer builders than was planned; because for the first time they had women amongst them, working as full-fledged bricklayers; and because they felt proud of what they had accomplished, they decided that they would have to try and celebrate some other way this time.

So they invited the orchestra from the East German Music Academy to come down to their club-room on the building site and give them a concert.

The orchestra, made up of young students, was just tuning up as I got there. The builders, in their working clothes, mostly had bottles of beer standing in front of them, and there was a deafening row as they argued and ragged each other.

As the orchestra struck up the din lessened, but many of the bricklayers and plasterers, used only to music playing in a restaurant or beer-garden, went on chatting quite happily. Their friends soon hushed them, and soon there was absolute silence in the wooden hut which serves as club-room.

The programme was colourful and varied, with Beethoven, folk dances, Weber and workers' songs all included. After each number the volume of applause grew, and by the end even the grumpy old worker sitting next to me, who at the beginning of the concert had muttered very loudly "Why do they have to come and muck up our party by fiddling at us?" was standing on his chair and cheering.

Who started it, I could not see, but suddenly everybody started grabbing the flowers out of the vases which were standing on each table among the beer bottles, and pressing them on the members of the orchestra. It was the nicest concert I have been to for a long time.

Tail Piece

In Berlin Notebook for June 20th I mentioned the lack of queues in Berlin these days, and the fact that if a queue did form for the purchase of something scarce then it was almost friendly, compared to the bitter, grumbling queues of a few years back.

Ever since, I have regretted writing these lines, for there have been a fair number of queues in East Berlin recently. Owing to the sudden heat wave people have been lining up for ice-cream, for soda-water, for cherries and the first tomatoes on the market. And every time that my wife sees a queue she remarks sweetly "You obviously like lining up in nice friendly queues. Wouldn't you like to buy me a pound of cherries?" Perhaps this note will stop her.

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